



ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

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Ref: Libby Ambient Air Sampling

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Minimum Face Velocity for Asbestos Sampling Cassette

FROM: Robert Edgar

TO: Mary Goldade

Mary - During our last meeting with Bill Brattin, the question arose over why the minimum face velocity for the sampling of asbestos as stated in ISO 10312 was 4.0 cm/sec. As shown in the attached figure (from Air Pollution - Its Origin and Control), the terminal or settling velocity of a spherical particle with a diameter of 0.3 microns is 4 cm/sec if the particle has a density of 1.5 g/cm³. If the same size particle has a density greater than 1.5 g/cm³, its settling velocity would be greater than 4 cm/sec, and therefore, with the sampler pointed downward this particle would not be captured if the flowrate was less than 4 cm/sec in the cassette. For spherical particles with a diameter of 0.3 microns and a density less than 1.5 g/cm³, they would be captured with a 4 cm/sec face velocity in the sampling cassette. Aerodynamic equivalent diameters for non-spherical particles are calculated equating their volumes to a spherical particle with the same volume. Therefore, the minimum face velocity of 4.0 cm/sec for asbestos sampling is likely related to the density and aerodynamic equivalent diameters for asbestos particles.



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uation (5-27), the Cunningham factor increases rapidly as the particle decreases and approaches the mean free path. When d_p is $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, the correction is less than 2 percent. However, for a $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ -diameter particle the value of V_t will be over 15 percent greater than the Stokes' law value. The relationship of V_t at these small sizes is

$$V_t = K_C V_{t, \text{Stokes}} \quad (5-31)$$

It is known as the Stokes-Cunningham law.

In the transition region between laminar and turbulent flow around a spherical particle the standard drag coefficient curve can be modeled by the equation

$$C_D = 0.22 + \frac{24}{\text{Re}} [1 + 0.15(\text{Re})^{0.6}] \quad (5-32)$$

The equation for flow around spheres is valid for Reynolds numbers from 1 to 1000. When the Reynolds number is greater than 0.5 (or the particle size appreciably greater than $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$), it is convenient to use the experimental data directly to evaluate V_t versus d_p at various particle densities, and present the results graphically. This is done in Figure 5-8, which covers a particle-size range from 0.1 to $3000\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ on a log-log plot. The terminal or settling velocity varies between 10^{-3} to 10^3 cm/s . For particle sizes above $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (or for Reynolds numbers greater than roughly 0.1) four curves are shown, for particle densities of 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 3.0 g/cm^3 . (For these cases, the left and upper axes must be used.) The single line to the right represents the Stokes and Stokes-Cunningham regions of flow. Note that the straight line is essentially straight between V_t values of 5×10^{-3} and 1 cm/s , as predicted by Stokes' law for a log-log plot. Below $5 \times 10^{-3}\text{ cm/s}$ the curves diverge as a result of the Cunningham correction. This single line is only for spherical particles with an apparent density of 1 g/cm^3 . From equation (5-26) we note that V_t is proportional to ρ . Thus the terminal velocity in the Stokes region for other particle densities may be found by the relation

$$V_t(\text{at } \rho_p) = V_t(\text{at } \rho_p \text{ of } 1\text{ g/cm}^3) \times \rho_p \quad (5-33)$$

where the first term on the right is found directly from Figure 5-8. It should be noted that Figure 5-8 is valid only for spherical particles settling in air at a temperature and pressure.

Example 5-3

To illustrate the evaluation of terminal velocities, assume a particle with unit density (1 g/cm^3) and a diameter of (a) $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, (b) $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and (c) $1000\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. Estimate the terminal velocity in room air in centimeters per second. Also

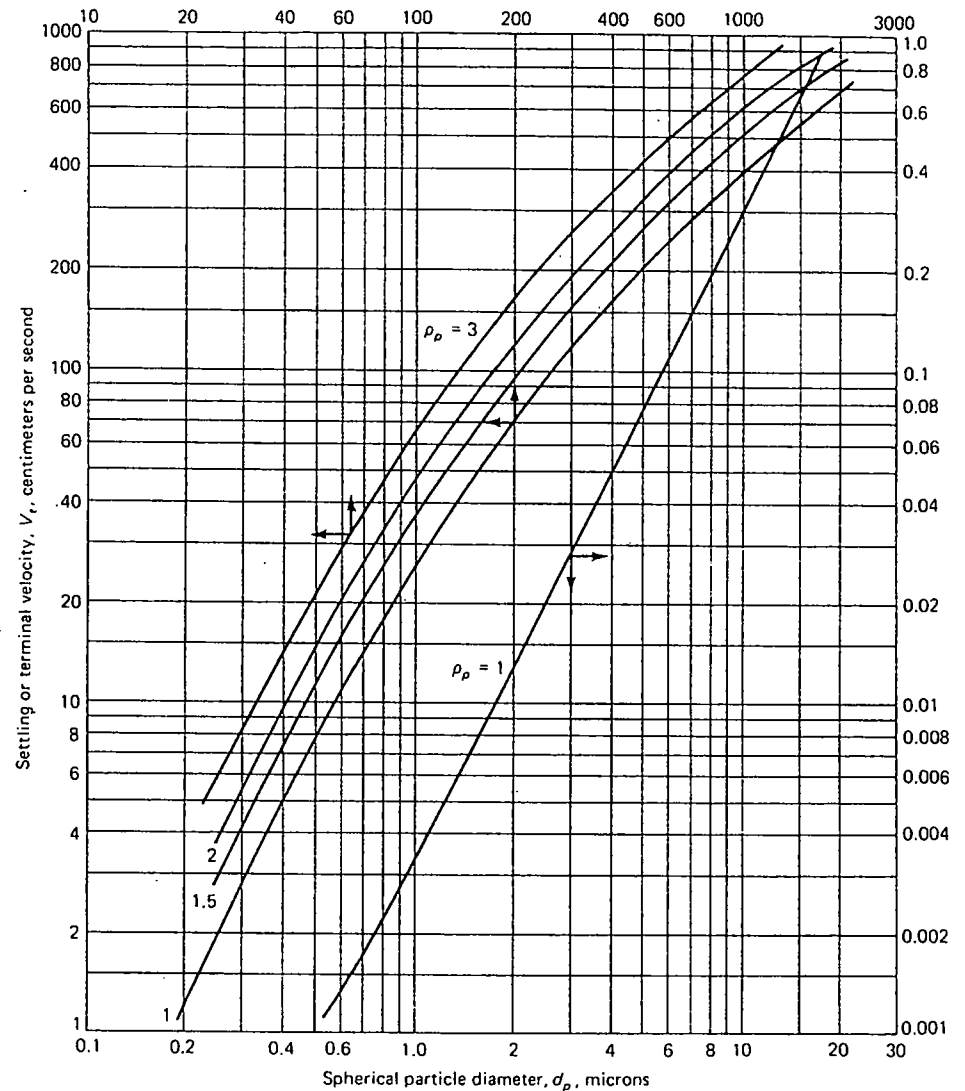


Figure 5-8 The terminal or settling velocity of spherical particles in atmospheric air at room temperature (density in grams per cubic centimeter).

SOLUTION

The terminal velocities can be read directly from Figure 5-8 in the required units. From this figure, as an estimate,

$$\begin{aligned} d_p = 10\text{ }\mu\text{m}, & \quad V_t = 0.3\text{ cm/s} \\ d_p = 100\text{ }\mu\text{m}, & \quad = 25.5\text{ cm/s} \\ d_p = 1000\text{ }\mu\text{m}, & \quad = 400\text{ cm/s} \end{aligned}$$